

REMARKS

Claims 1-68 are pending. No amendments have been made by way of the present submission, thus, no new matter has been added.

In view of the following, favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Restrictions Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372

In the outstanding communication the Examiner has indicated that the application contains inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept pursuant to PCT Rule 13.1. Thus, the Examiner requires that Applicants elect one of Groups 1-11 listed at pages 2-3 of the outstanding communication. This is respectfully traversed.

Preliminarily, in an effort to be fully responsive to the outstanding communication, Applicants hereby elect Group 7, directed to claims 21-25.

However, Applicants point out that there exists no undue administrative burden placed upon the Examiner to search and consider all claims in there entirety. Moreover, Applicants point out that claim 12, which links Groups 5, 6 and 7 (as admitted by the Examiner at the top of page 3 of the communication) is patentable and thus represents a contribution of the prior art. As such, the Examiner should at least search and consider the claims included within Groups 5-7, which is inclusive of all claims listed within these groups as well as at least the linking claim 12, discussed above and additionally claims 1, 26-31, 62-63 and 65-68, which were also admitted by the Examiner to be linking claims.

In view of the above, favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gerald M. Murphy, Jr., Registration No 28,977, at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  #42874
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